**Music Through the Decades**

Narrator

Welcome to Regional Day Schools production of

*“Music Through the Decades.”*

Narrator

Music has changed a great deal in 100 years. In the early 1900s- before TV programs like *The Ed Sullivan Show* and MTV, musical variety shows took place on stage.

These musical variety shows were known as Vaudeville and they were a very popular form of entertainment.

Our first song is written in a Dixieland/ragtime form. It was written by America’s most prolific composer of popular music, Irving Berlin. As a matter of fact, this song was Irving Berlin’s first big hit

Here to perform “*Alexander’s Ragtime Band*,” is our own Vaudeville group, the students of the Green Community.

**SONG:** *“Alexander’s Ragtime Band”*

Narrator

After World War I popular music turned from Vaudeville style to Jazz. As Jazz became more popular, so did the shows on stage. Stage shows went from family variety shows, to Big Band *swing* shows. As time passed, the recording industry exploded allowing more and more people to hear their favorite popular artists.

The Andrews Sisters were one of the most popular singing groups during the late 1930’s and 40’s. They introduced our next song in 1941, and it became one of their biggest hits. This song is an example of jump/blues and is ranked #6 on CNN’s “Songs of the Century” list. Bette Midler reintroduced this hit to audiences in 1973.

Please welcome the Blue Community, as they perform this iconic hit:

“The Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy.”

**SONG:** “*Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy*”

Narrator

In the 1950’s swing began to rock, and dancing became…well, things changed.

Guitars joined the bands, and then guitars replaced the bands. Sometimes a band might be just one person on stage with a guitar.

Buddy Holly and Bill Haley were two early rock and roll stars. They had created bands made up of two guitars, bass and drums, sometimes adding piano and even an accordion.

Buddy Holly and his band once opened for Elvis Presely. “We owe it all to Elvis,” is what Holly said when his band became famous.

Elvis Presely was born in 1935. He got his first guitar at the age of eleven. He is the best selling solo artist in US history.

Please welcome the Ocean Community with their tribute to The King, Elvis Presely.

**SONG:** “*Hound Dog*”

**SONG:** “*All Shook Up*”

Narrator

The American folk music revival was a phenomenon in the United States from the late 1950’s to the mid 1960’s. The acoustic performances became associated with coffee-houses, open-air concerts, sing-a-longs and college campus concerts. It blended with the beatnik scene, and dedicated singers of folk songs travelled through what was called “the coffee-house circuit” across the US and Canada.

Pete Seeger and The Weavers were the first American artists to record our next number. Their recording was entitled “Wimoweh” a mishearing of the song’s chorus of “uyimbube” (meaning "you're a lion"). Yes the song is “The Lion Sleeps Tonight’”, made famous in the 1960’s by The Tokens. But this song originated in South Africa, and was first recorded in 1939 by Solomon Lind and the Evening Birds. The song’s original title is “Mbube” (Zulu for “the lion”), and became so popular that it leant its name to a style of African acapella music.

Please welcome, fresh from their triumphant African Feast, Yellow 4 to perform for us the original “Mbube,”, and then the remainder of the Yellow Community to give us their rendition of “The Lion Sleeps Tonight.”

**SONG:** “*Mbube*”

**SONG:** “*The Lion Sleeps Tonight*”

Narrator

Thank you. And thank you to all the students and staff of Regional Day School who came together to make this concert possible.

For our finale, we go to the Adult Contemporary sound of the 1970’s.

This song is most commonly attributed to Mr. Adult Contemporary himself, Barry Manilow, but it has been recorded by many artists, from Frank Sinatra, to The Captain and Tenille, to David Osborne, and most recently, by Me First and the Gimee Gimees.

The song is a tribute to the spirit of creativity that is in all of us.

And all of us include you, the audience.

Our Art teacher, Ms. Webber has taught all of the children to sign the song, and she will lead all of us, joining Barry Manilow, to sing:

“I Write the Songs”

**SONG:** “*I Write the Songs”*